

Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of this Application. Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11-16, 19, 23-25, 34-50 are pending after entry of the present Amendment. Claims 17, 18, 20, 22, 28, 29, 31, and 33 were previously cancelled. Claims 4-7, 10, 21, 26, 27, 30, and 32 have been cancelled and new claims 42-50 have been added. Amendments were made to the claims to better define the claimed invention. The new claims and amendments do not introduce new subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Office has rejected claims 1-16, 19, 21, 23-27, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,615,264 to Stoltz et al. (Stoltz). For at least the followings reasons, Stoltz fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as defined in independent claim 34 and amended independent claims 1, 12, 23.

Contrary to the claimed invention wherein a first token of one or more tokens is converted to an authenticated token, Stoltz only discloses using initial tokens. For instance, in Stoltz, a user can be identified using a unique identifier corresponding to the user (e.g., a token in mechanisms such as smart card) or user information login as entered by the user in the form of personal identification numbers. The entered unique identifier is then used to associate the user with a session. However, the unique identifier disclosed in Stoltz is not the same as the authenticated token of the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, the first token of one or more tokens assigned to the user is converted to the authenticated token and the user is associated with a session using the authenticated token. In Stoltz, the unique identifying information (e.g., token) provided by the user is used to both, authenticate the user and directly associate the user to the session. Thus, contrary to the claimed invention wherein one or more tokens can be converted to the authenticated token that is in turn used to associate the user with the session, in Stoltz, there is a one-to-one correlation between the identifying information, the user, and the session.

Furthermore, contrary to the Office's interpretation, Stoltz fails to disclose using more than one mechanism (i.e., in Stoltz, the user can be identified by either initiating login or "other authentication mechanism"). In the claimed invention, the user is assigned one or more tokens, each of which can be converted to the authenticated token. In turn, the user is associated with the session via the authenticated token. In this manner, the user can be authenticated by different tokens and can still access the session using the authenticated token. For instance, in the claimed invention, the user is assigned a smart card and a biometric identifier. Initially, the user presents the smart card so as to log in, which is

converted to the authenticated token. The authenticated token is then used to associate the user with the session. In Stoltz, however, the user is identified using a single identifying information such as a smart card, and only the smart card is associated with the session. If the user in Stoltz loses the user's smart card, the user can no longer access the session unless the user reproduces the smart card. In the claimed invention, however, if the user loses the user's smart card, the user can still be authenticated by the biometric identifier (the other token associated with the user). However, because each of the one or more tokens assigned to the user is converted to the authenticated token, and it is the authenticated token that is used to associate the user with the session, the user can access the session.

Furthermore, in the claimed invention, as defined in amended independent claim 12, each of the one or more tokens are converted to the authenticated token by a converting unit. Stoltz, however, does not disclose a converting unit as in Stoltz the identifying information is directly associated with the session. Additionally, in the claimed invention, the user can access the same session on the second terminal while the session is still being accessed by the first terminal. In Stoltz, however, the user removes the token or logs out before the user can go to a second terminal. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention, as defined in claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11-16, 19, 23-25, 34, and 42-50 is novel over the cited prior art.

Indication of Allowability:

The Applicants herein acknowledge the allowability of claims 35-41 if rewritten to include the features of the independent claim 34.

As such, the Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of the subject application, and submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6913. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP601). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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